

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of copy protecting a program installed on a computer system, said computer system comprising a copy protection unit, said method comprising the following steps:

5 determining a decision section of the program, wherein information influencing the further course of the program is defined during execution of the program as a function of the current running state of the program, and

10 converting the decision section of the program for copy protection by means of code, wherein said code is executable exclusively in the copy protection unit and is executed during execution of the program.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said code effects a comparison of two data values and a definition of the information as a function of the result of said comparison when the code is executed.

15 3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information comprises a program address at which execution of the program is resumed.

20 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of converting the decision section further comprises providing a program instruction and executing the program instruction to call the copy protection unit and transfer the data required for execution of the decision section to the copy protection unit.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the data transferred to the copy protection unit includes a processing regulation.

6. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the data required for execution of the decision
5 section is encoded and is transferred to the copy protection unit in encoded form.

7. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the data required for execution of the decision section and the processing regulation are encoded and are transferred to the copy protection unit in encoded form.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the code in the copy protection unit is executed in a protected area of the computer system, wherein the protected area is closed to the rest of the computer system.

15 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of determining a decision section of the program further comprises determining the decision section according to an instruction sequence of the decision section in the program.

20 10. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising repeating the steps of determining a decision section of the program and converting the decision section to determine and convert a plurality of decision sections, wherein if two similar decision sections are determined, the similar decision sections are converted by different codes in the converting steps.

11. A peripheral computer device for adding a copy protection function to a program on a computer system, said computer system in electrical communication with the device, said device comprising:

a copy protection unit;

5 a determining module, wherein the determining module determines a decision section of the program, and wherein information influencing the further course of the program is defined during execution of the program as a function of the current running state of the program, and
a converting module, wherein the converting module converts the decision section of the program into code, and wherein the code is executable exclusively in the copy protection unit
10 and is executed during execution of the program.

12. The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said code effects a comparison of two data values and a definition of the information as a function of the result of said comparison.

15 13. The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said information comprises a program address as which execution of the program is resumed.

14. The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the determining module further comprises a program instruction, wherein the program instruction, when executed, calls the copy protection
20 unit and transfers the data required for execution of the decision section to the copy protection unit.

15. The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the data transferred to the copy protection unit comprises a processing regulation.

16. The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the data required for execution of the decision
5 section is encoded and is transferred to the copy protection unit in encoded form.

17. The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the data required for execution of the decision section and the processing regulation are encoded and are transferred to the copy protection unit in encoded form.

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18. The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the code in the copy protection unit is executed in a protected area of the computer system, wherein the protected area is closed to the rest of the computer system.

15 19. The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the decision section is determined according to an instruction sequence of the decision section in the program.

20. The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein a plurality of decision sections are determined and converted, and wherein if two similar decision sections are determined, the similar decision
20 sections are converted by different codes.

21. A computer program for adding a copy protection function to a preexisting program on a computer system, said computer program comprising:

a determining section, wherein the determining section determines a decision section of the preexisting program, and wherein information influencing the further course of the preexisting program is defined during execution of the preexisting program as a function of the current running state of the preexisting program, and

5 a converting section, wherein the converting section converts the decision section into code, and wherein the code is executable exclusively in the computer program and is executed during execution of the preexisting program.

22. The computer program as claimed in claim 21, wherein said code effects a comparison of
10 two data values and a definition of the information as a function of the result of said comparison.

23. The computer program as claimed in claim 21, wherein said information comprises a preexisting program address as which execution of the preexisting program is resumed.

15 24. The computer program as claimed in claim 21, wherein the determining section further comprises a preexisting program instruction, wherein the preexisting program instruction, when executed, calls the preexisting program and transfers the data required for execution of the decision section to the computer program.

20 25. The computer program as claimed in claim 24, wherein the data transferred to the computer program comprises a processing regulation.

26. The computer program as claimed in claim 24, wherein the data required for execution of
the decision section is encoded and is transferred to the computer program in encoded form.
27. The computer program as claimed in claim 25, wherein the data required for execution of
5 the decision section and the processing regulation are encoded and are transferred to the
computer program in encoded form.
28. The computer program as claimed in claim 21, wherein the code in the computer program
is executed in a protected area of the computer system, wherein the protected area is closed to the
10 rest of the computer system.
29. The computer program as claimed in claim 21, wherein the decision section is determined
according to an instruction sequence of the decision section in the preexisting program.
- 15 30. The computer program as claimed in claim 21, wherein a plurality of decision sections are
determined and converted, and wherein if two similar decision sections are determined, the
similar decision sections are converted by different codes.